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## History

The father of the Spring Ridge Mochs was Louis Morgan Moch, 1859-1910. He and his wife, Relvia Cole, 1863-1945, had 16 children and lived in Spring Ridge, Louisiana. Eight of the sixteen children had surviving descendants. Research and anecdotal information suggest that Louis's father was Jewish and named Henry Moch. There is conflicting evidence as to whether he was French as stated in one census report, or German, according to Louis. But most likely he was Alsatian. Family members have searched census reports and other sources trying to find information about Henry with little success. However, an 1875 Commercial Directory of the City of Shreveport does provide one additional bit of information. On page 61 of the Directory, a list of "Retail Grocery Stores" shows that a H. Moch owned a store on Texas Street. A microfilm record also shows that Diana Levy rented a shop on Texas Street to a Henry Moch. However, after that point the trail goes cold again; no H. Moch is listed in the 1880 Shreveport City Directory and we have not found a H. Moch from Germany or France in any of the census records for Louisiana between 1860-1900. Louis's mother's name still remains a mystery to the family. We know that she was black and at one time lived in Alabama or Virginia. She had two children, Gill and Mary, before Louis was born. Because this was during slavery, we believe that she was separated from her children.

Though Louis and Relvia were both born during slavery, there is nothing to indicate that they were slaves. Louis was educated, and he helped found New Hill Academy School. Relvia was a strong disciplinarian and complimented Louis as a wonderful homemaker. Louis had approximately 112 acres of land -- Relvia, approximately 56 -- when they married. Louis and Relvia trained all of their children in business. After becoming adults, the fourteen remaining children became entrepreneurs. CHILDREN OF LOUIS AND RELVIA MOCHETTA MOCH (1878-1932) was the first of sixteen children born to Louis Morgan and Relvia Moch. Etta married John Sherouse of Spring Ridge and from this union, nine children were born -- Emma, Clemmie, Earnest, Idella, Alvin, Murray, Johnny and Clarence Sherouse. RACHEL MOCH (1881-1968) was the second child born to Louis and Relvia Moch. Rachel married twice. Her first husband's name was Edmond Lake and the second husband's name was Rev. Charles Henry Williams. Rachel had three children -- Tom, Annie and Pearl Lee. LOUIS HENRY MOCH (1883-1957) was the third child of Louis and Relvia Moch. Louis Henry married Carrie Etta Coleman. To this union, 11 children were born -- Charlie Louis, Mary Lucy, Olivia, Leona, Cordia, Jack Cary, Henry, Relvia, Tom Thumb, Gilbert, and Thelma. EARNEST MOCH (1885-1886) AND BENJAMIN MOCH (1886-1888) fourth and fifth children of Louis and Relvia, died as small children. ELIZABETH MOCH (1887-1973) was the sixth child of Louis and Relvia. Elizabeth married Mack Glover and they had one child - Mack Glover, Jr. JAMES ADDISON MOCH (1889-1975) was the seventh child of Louis and Relvia Moch. James Addison had three children by his first wife, Vaddie Barrett Moch, and no children by his second wife, Letha Ann Moch. His three children were James Addison Jr., Ethel, and Eddie Joe. He has no known living descendants. WILLIAM MURRAY MOCH (1891-1972) was the eighth child of Louis and Relvia Moch. William Murray married Mattie L. Stafford. They were blessed with six children, Lonnie Benjamin, Nobisa Lee, Christine, Murray, Jr., Annie Bernice, Joseph Phillip and one adopted daughter, Catherine Morgan. LELA MOCH (1893-1989) was the ninth child born to Louis and Relvia. Lela married Alexander Washington. From the union, one son, Lee Arthur Washington was born. CLARA MOCH (1896-1934) was the tenth child of Louis and Relvia Moch. Clara married John White. They did not have children. L.M. MOCH (1897-1986) was the eleventh child born to Louis and Relvia. L.M. married Alice Hawkins. No children were born to L.M. and Alice, but they helped raise Alice's nephew, Grady Burnell and were foster parents to James Gill. NORMAN MOCH (1899-1984) was the twelfth child of Louis and Relvia Moch. Norman married Willie Cottonreader. From this union, a son, Norman Moch Jr., was born. After Willie Cottonreader passed away, Norman Sr. later married Nora Lemons. They adopted a daughter, Bertha Lee. WILLIAM MCKINLEY MOCH, SR. (1901-1991) was the thirteenth of the sixteen children born to Louis and Relvia Moch. William was joined in Holy Matrimony to Eleanor Brown, and of that union eight children were born - Eleanor, Mildred, William Jr., Betty, George, Nita, Rudolph and Laura. CARRIE MOCH (1903-1921) was the fourteenth of sixteen children born to Louis and Relvia. Carrie married Kary Metcalf at an early age. At the age of seventeen, Carrie died giving birth to her son, Joseph Metcalf. JESSE MOCH (1906-2001) was the fifteenth of sixteen children born to Louis and Relvia Moch. He was the last of the original 16 to die. He did not have any children of his own, but he had a special place in the hearts of many nieces and nephews. ARDIS MOCH, SR. (1908-1978) was the sixteen child of Louis and Relvia Moch. Ardis married Ida Mae Thomas and to this union, eleven children were born - Cleon, Aretha, Cleathel, Bernice, Lorine, Ernestyne, Ardis Jr., Betty, Mary Ann, Charlie, and Charlotte. He also had another son, Lawrence Edward Moch.